



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: June 10, 2015

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236
stllewellyn@howardcountymd.gov

Police confiscate ATM skimming device in Columbia

Warn residents to be vigilant when swiping cards, monitoring statements

Howard County Police have confiscated an ATM skimming device discovered at the NASA Federal Credit Union in the 6400 block of Dobbin Road in Columbia.

Police were called to the area on June 7 at approximately 7:05 p.m. after a caller reported that an ATM's card scanner appeared suspicious and had come loose from the machine. The device, a replica of the ATM's scanner, had been attached to the machine with tape. A small camera and memory card were also removed from the machine.

Police are encouraging customers who bank at NASA Federal Credit Union to be especially vigilant in monitoring their account statements and to report any inconsistencies to police. At this time, police have received no reports of stolen information being used.

The department is warning all residents to be alert when using credit and bank cards at automated machines. Skimming devices have become more sophisticated and can sometimes be difficult to detect. Residents should be aware of their surroundings, look for anything that may appear to be suspicious and monitor their accounts often.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, card skimming is a crime that involves installing a device, which is often difficult to detect, that records account information when a card is swiped at an ATM. Criminals then use the data to access the victim's bank account. These devices are sometimes found at ATMs, gas pumps and other point of sale locations.

The department is releasing a photo of the suspect in this incident and is asking anyone with information to call 410-313-STOP. Police urge the public to call 911 if an ATM or other automated card reader appears to have been tampered with.

###